

LAWYERS - 1915

# S. A. T. WATKINS PLEADS FOR CHICAGO BEFORE U. S. SUPREME COURT

*The Chicago Defender*

Assistant Corporation Counsel  
Has the Distinction of Being  
the First Afro-American Attor-  
ney to Represent a Municipal-  
ity Before High Court.

## THIRD TIME BEFORE COURT.

*Defender*  
As Supreme Attorney for the Knights  
of Pythias Mr. Watkins Has Ap-  
peared Before This August Body  
Twice, Winning Favorable Decisions  
for Order Each Time.

(Special to The Chicago Defender.)

Washington, D. C., April 23.—S. A. T. Watkins, assistant corporation counsel of the city of Chicago, appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States as counsel for the city of Chicago Monday. This is the first time that an Afro-American attorney has appeared before this court for a municipality and the citizens of Chicago should be elated that one of its lawyers was so honored. The case is known officially as the City of Chicago vs. The Chicago Transportation Company.

Mr. Watkins has appeared before the Supreme Court twice before, but it was in the interest of the Knights of Pythias, of which he is Supreme Attorney. Both cases were decided favorably to the order he represented. In one case he had the distinction of advising and being associated with the Hon. Alton B. Parker, for years the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of New York and subsequently candidate for President of the United States.

### Wins Important Decision.

In June, 1912, Mr. Watkins has to his credit the winning of a most important decision in the Appellate Court favorable to the city of Chicago. It was the first case in Illinois on the question, interpreting the forfeiture clause in city contracts, thereby saving the city hundreds of thousands of

dollars.

### Honor at End of Term.

The distinction of being the first attorney of color to represent a city before the United States supreme court comes to Mr. Watkins at the close of his term of office, in which he has been one of the trial attorneys during that term in the corporation counsel's office. The distinguished attorney is a Democrat and retires to private life along with the Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor. Mr. Watkins is president of the famous Appomattox Club of Chicago. Mr. Watkins will spend several days visiting friends in the South before returning to Chicago.

## COLORED LAWYERS IN W. VA. SUPREME COURT

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

CHARLESTON, W. VA., Oct. 12.—For the first time in the history of the West Virginia supreme court of appeals, a case was recently argued for submission in which the arguments on each side were made by colored attorneys. The case was that of William Chambers against the Great State Counsel, brought up from Fayette county.

J. M. Ellis of Oak Hill, a former member of the legislature, represented one side and T. L. Sweeney, of Fayetteville, appeared for the defendant in error, the plaintiff in the original suit.

## RACE LAWYERS BARRED FROM PRACTICING IN FLORIDA.

(Special to The Chicago Defender.)

Jacksonville, Fla., May 4.—Bob Armstrong, ex-trainer of Jack Johnson, has opened a cold drink establishment in the lobby of the new Globe Theater. Bob is to develop a local policeman prize fighter who aspires to the heavyweight championship.

The state legislature has passed a law debarring lawyers of the race from practicing in this state.

### NEGRO BAR ASSOCIATION MEET.

*The Freeman*  
Muskogee, Okla., Jan. 1.—The Oklahoma State Negro Bar Association met recently in Muskogee. E. L. Sadler was elected president for the current year.

## DR. HOLDER'S ARTICLE ON: "COLORED WOMEN EMPLOYING JEWISH LAWYERS."

"My dear Dr. Holder:

"I have made several attempts to write on the injustices which the colored lawyers of this city have to encounter, but the last thought convinced me that you can better do this than I, after I will have given the result of my observation.

"There are a number of competent colored lawyers in this city, and yet the women of our race invariably employ Jewish lawyers and pay them exorbitant fees in preference to their own.

"Of late, the race has learned to make appeals to the financial members of it, and how can financial aid be granted to any great extent when the men who ought to be supported largely, from a professional standpoint, are overlooked.

"Yours truly,

"A COLORED LAWYER,

"New York."

We have reached a competitive age when color is gradually being lost sight of and competency is taking the lead. Nevertheless, occasionally we are brought face to face with many things that hurt and worry.

As a public man who has many friends among the colored and white people, and being void of the tinge of prejudice, malice, hate and jealousy, I can afford to write on this subject without fear of being partial.

Colored lawyers have a right to be sensitive on this matter, and it is to be hoped that the whole thing will adjust itself ere many years will have elapsed.

The masses will have to be schooled to the fact that in New York City skin hasn't anything to do with competency along professional lines.

If it is true that colored women "invariably employ Jewish lawyers," then the reason ought to be found out and the remedy applied.

When persons earn their money, it is always a difficult thing to tell them how to spend it, where to spend it, and with whom to spend it. I see no great sin in colored women employing Jewish lawyers, but I do maintain that they sin against themselves and their children and relatives when they "employ Jewish lawyers and PAY them EXORBITANT FEES."

The time has come for us to preach race loyalty, but how far this race loyalty can be preached, I am not in a position to tell or say.

If I were to make an open declaration to the effect that colored women should employ colored lawyers exclusively I would be guilty of an attempt to destroy the fundamental principle of a portion of the Great Teachings of the Fatherhood of God

and the brotherhood of man, which knows neither Jew nor Gentile, Greek nor Indian, white nor black, for in the sight of God all are one, even although members of the white race are slow in recognizing this potent fact.

The colored lawyers of this city, however, are deserving of greater support from the people of their race, and had it not been for kind white friends many a worthy colored lawyer would have long ago died in obscurity and want.

I hope the colored lawyers will organize and launch a campaign among the people of the city and prove to all that, although black, they are competent, honest and God-fearing.

I am in a position to know that a large number of colored people have a queer idea of the competency of the professional men of their race, and this should not be, because the same boards which examine and license the white men examine and license the colored men, and in view of the fact the demand in New York is great and the requirements in all directions are high, colored women, against whom the serious charge has been made, will understand that colored lawyers licensed to practice in the City or State of New York are equally as "good" or "competent" as the "Jewish lawyers." (Fame and brilliancy are two different things.)

"A Colored Lawyer" has raised a splendid point, when he argues that the giving of gifts to colored institutions will depend largely on better financial support from the members of the race.

It seems to be a very difficult thing in this country to argue without introducing the race question, which is always unfortunate. Let us therefore look forward to the time, which will, by the mode of evolution, eliminate the color question, so that men in this country will be enabled to speak of each other as men, and in this way we will all enjoy the fullness of land which belongs to God, and not the Indians nor the white men.

Colored women, if you have been guilty of paying exorbitant fees to Jewish lawyers do so no longer, and employ a lawyer not because he is white, but because he is competent, be he white or black.

## \$20,000 BEQUEATHED TO WASHINGTON LAWYER

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 6.—W. H. Richards, an attorney at law, and for a long time a member of the faculty of the law department of Howard University, has gone to Red Wing, Minn., to take charge of the estate valued at \$20,000, devised to him by the late Mrs. Julia B. Nelson of that city, who had also provided for Richards' education

following the close of the civil war.

Mrs. Nelson was a national figure in the cause of woman's suffrage and temperance. Richards was her pupil and gave to her the sympathy and affection of a son. Mrs. Nelson's will provided for her sister and niece and also named the American Woman's Suffrage Association and the Minnesota Woman's Suffrage Association as beneficiaries. Then the will read:

"I bequeath to my former pupil all the rest and residue—William H. Richards, who has cheered my lonely life with sympathy and affection as a son should render to his mother."

Richards resides at 505 Florida avenue, northwest, sharing the apartment with O. H. White.

## Disbarred Negro Lawyer

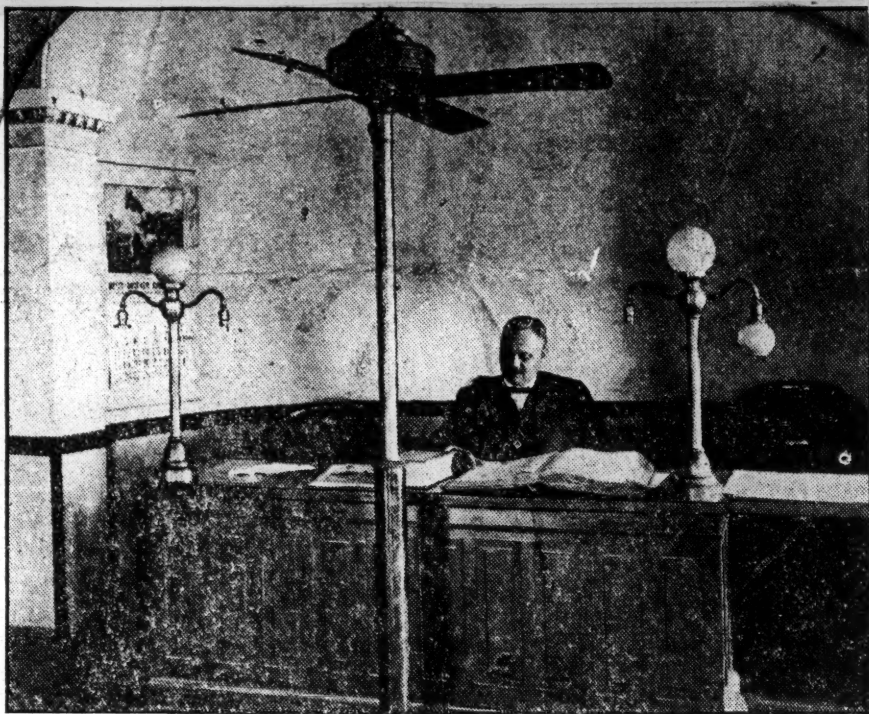
### Appeals Court Decision

NEWARK, May 20.—A procedure without precedent in the annals of the Chancery Court of this State was started in connection with the disbarment from that tribunal of Alfred B. Cosey, a negro lawyer of this city, yesterday, when former Judge Thomas S. Henry, on behalf of Cosey, appealed the decision in the Court of Errors and Appeals.

The counsel for Cosey admitted that there was no precedent, which, he added, did not say that the decision could not be appealed. Cosey was disbarred by an opinion of Vice-Chancellor Howell, in which it was held that Cosey extorted money and obligations from Alfred and Jessie N. Conod, of Orange. The vice-chancellor stated that the act that Cosey returned \$750 to he Conods was proof enough of he overcharge by the lawyer.

Lawyer M. H. Broyles has a very thoughtful letter in a recent number of the Texas Freeman in which he arraigns the Negro for employing the white lawyer to the exclusion of lawyers of his own race. The able lawyer has attracted attention to the colored man's habit of tabbooning his own race in almost everything else. It is doubtful if he is proving any better in this regard. The Dallas Express has a record for condemning the colored humbug who gives his mouth to his own enterprises, but his money to the enterprises of others. It looks like it must continue to condemn them. They are on the increase and in a few years, if they are not halted, will strangle all the efforts of their race.





HON. SCIPIO A. JONES, Attorney,  
Little Rock, Ark.

#### SCIPIO JONES, SPECIAL JUDGE.

Scipio Jones, Negro lawyer, was named a special judge by election by attorneys present in the court, to act in a case in municipal court this morning. Municipal Judge Fred A. Isgrig disqualified in the case yesterday and selection of a special judge by election by members of the bar in the court is required under provisions of the new municipal court law.

It is one of the first instances in the history of Little Rock, if not in the entire State, that a Negro has acted as a judge in a court of the standing of the Little Rock municipal court. Numerous attorneys and others in the city commented on it quite freely during the day.

The following statement of facts leading up to and the circumstances of the selection of Jones was made by Judge Isgrig at request of the Democrat this afternoon, as a result of numerous queries received as to why white lawyers should have selected a Negro to conduct the case:

"When the case of Walker was called yesterday morning, W. A. Singfield, representing the defendant, asked that the case be passed until today. This was granted, and the case continued until today. Later, I was informed that there was obligation to be made to my sitting in the case, because W. A. Singfield, representing the defendant, had filed suit against me in his own behalf, which suit has been pending for some time.

"When I found that this objection was to be made I stated that I had no desire to try any case if it was

thought there was reason why I was disqualified.

"Accordingly, when the case against Walker was called, against Singfield's client, I announced I would not try the case. The case was against a Negro and the offense alleged had been committed against Negroes, and all witnesses were Negroes. In this connection, the case was one of several similar complaints found to be without foundation, and originating through spite in a colored neighborhood and in fact was a Negro neighborhood row, as it later developed.

"When I announced my disqualification in this case because of the attorney's suit against me, the lawyers present called for the election of a special judge for this particular case. The clerk of the court, Thomas Donahue, called for nominations and conducted the election as the municipal court bill provides.

"Scipio Jones was nominated by the city attorney and voted for by Mr. Hale, deputy prosecuting attorney, and all of the lawyers in attendance.

"I suppose all the white lawyers thought as I did—that for the trial of this particular case a complaint among Negroes, Jones was peculiarly fitted by environment as well as marked ability as a lawyer, and in recognition of his reputation and standing in the community and in the bar of Little Rock."—Daily Arkansas Democrat, April 8, 1915.

Hon. Scipio A. Jones, attorney, Little Rock, Ark., was admitted to the Pulaski circuit court June 15, 1889; Supreme Court of Arkansas, November 26, 1900; District Court of the

United States for the Western division of the eastern district of Arkansas, October 30, 1901; and the Supreme Court of the United States of America May 29, 1905.

Delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1908, and 1912; at present national attorney for the Mosaic Templars of America and International Order of Twelve, Knights and Daughters of Tabor; State attorney for the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, United Knights and Ladies of Honor and the American Knights of Freedom.

He received a gold medal for the representative part he took in defeating the "Grand Father's Clause" in Arkansas. He now owns and operates a modern hotel in Little Rock, Ark.

#### NEGRO LAWYER ROILS LANDIS

F. L. Barnett Keeps Court Waiting  
While He Goes Out to Buy a  
Handkerchief.

Ferdinand L. Barnett, a negro lawyer, was reprimanded by Judge Landis yesterday for failing to appear in court when his case was called for trial. Barnett kept Judge Landis, a jury, and the government attorney waiting while he leisurely went out and bought a handkerchief.

The lawyer finally appeared after Judge Landis had sent a scouting party in search of him.

"Whenever you feel called upon to leave this court room I will consider it no more than courteous to be notified of the fact," the judge said.

Barnett is defending William Howerston, a negro, charged with violation of the Mann act.

#### Colored Lawyers Success-

fully Defend Clients  
*The Journal and Guide*

In the Corporation Court, last Wednesday afternoon, juries rendered verdicts of acquittal in the cases of the Commonwealth against Robert Ivey and James Moody, two young colored men charged with attempted criminal assault. The former was represented by John E. Liggs, and the latter by J. M. Harrison.

The other picture is that of Attorney W. J. Latham, a native of the state of Mississippi, a citizen of Jackson. He is a law graduate of Walden University and shows what the Negro can do in the legal profession. He practices before all courts in his state. His first case was that of a client who was being prosecuted upon a felony charge. On the other side against Attorney Latham were two eminent white lawyers and the prosecutor wealthy. The case naturally attracted a large crowd and the verdict was given to Mr. Latham's client. On his treatment in general before the courts, Mr. Latham says: "While I have had points decided against me, in cases where I thought my theory was the correct one, as all lawyers have, I cannot truthfully charge that such adverse decisions were made simply because I was colored, but on the other hand, I prefer to believe that the courts in view of racial conditions have gone the limit in seeing that I had the privilege of making a proper presentation of my case."

Mississippi furnishes a splendid field for Negro lawyers because of the large number of business corporations, fraternal and secret societies operated by Negroes in the state. Several of these employ Mr. Latham as their general counsel. In a number of cases reported from the Supreme court, which was prosecuted by Mr. Latham, have been cited as authority and control in the decision of the higher courts. Surely our schools are worth while and they are working upon good material and getting gratifying results.

to practice law at the Luzerne county bar, is locked in a jail cell.

He was lodged there following a hearing at which several of his former friends in this city testified that they had accepted checks drawn on local banks by Bennett which were not honored at the institutions where he claimed to have funds.

#### ONLY NEGRO LAWYER IN MAINE.

The only negro lawyer in the state of Maine, Milton R. Geary of Bangor, has been admitted by Judge Clarence Hale in the U. S. district court to practice in the Federal courts. Mr. Geary is a graduate of the University of Maine Law School and has been practising law in Bangor for two years. He is small in stature but a brilliant student and has been doing well in his law practise.

#### NEGRO COURT ESTABLISHED

TULSA, Ok.—The commissioners of Tulsa county have created a Negro justice of the peace court and appointed Freeman L. Martin, Negro lawyer, to fill the bench, says the Dallas News.

July 1915  
ONLY NEGRO MEMBER OF  
LUZERNE BAR IS JAILED

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., July 24.—J. Robin Bennett, the only negro ever admitted



Lawyers - 1915

## A SPECIAL JUDGE.

A Case Where Ability and Worth are Recognized Shows Forth in the Career of  
Scipio A. Jones.

*The Dallas Express 4/17*



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He received a Gold Medal for the representative part he took in defeating the "Grand Father's Clause" in Arkansas, and now owns and operates a modern hotel in Little Rock, Ark.

Below we append a clipping about Mr. Jones, taken from the Arkansas Daily Democrat. It says:

### Scipio Jones Special Judge.

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### LAWYER'S HOBBY IS TO WIN APPEAL CASES

*The New York Times*  
St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 9.—Much interest was excited in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals when Turner W. Bell, a former slave, appeared as attorney in a case heard before that court in the Federal Building. Few in the audience knew that Bell was a noted lawyer who has appeared before every United States Judge in the Central District in many famous trials.

He has been a practicing attorney in Leavenworth for twenty-eight years, and his hobby is special cases. During 1914 he filed sixty-one appeals in United States courts. He was successful in forty-one of them, and in only two of them were his clients Negroes.

### FAVORS COLORED LAWYERS

Florida Senate Committee Says They Should Be Allowed to Practice in This and Other Professions.

Tampa, May 24.—Although the lower house of the Florida legislature voted by a big majority to disbar all colored lawyers in the State, the Senate Judiciary Committee reported unfavorably on the bill. It is expected that the Senate will stand by the committee and kill the bill.

The colored lawyers have the support of the Tampa Tribune, a white paper which says:

"There is no valid reason why an honest colored man should not be allowed to practice law or any other profession in Florida, and there is every reason why he should be encouraged to develop his talents along professional and other lines."

### WILL BAR COLORED LAWYERS

Florida Legislators Trying to Pass Forbidding Measure

*The New York Times*  
Tallahassee, Fla., May 24.—The lawmakers and law breakers are in session at Tallahassee busy trying to keep the colored citizen down as usual. They have a bill before them which provides that no colored man will be permitted to practice law in Florida if the Senate and House confirms it. They are also considering the grandfather clause pertaining to Negro voting in this State. We will give the public a full copy of it in our next article.

Rev. A. C. Porter and Rev. Frank W. Lancaster are representing the B. Y. P. U for the National Baptist Convention and are doing nicely.

Counsellor Thomas L. Jones, a leader at the District bar, has been making some stirring speeches at a number of the Washington churches on "The Status of the Negro in the Courts," including one of the influence of the Negro lawyer and what the legal profession is doing for the advancement of the race. The address is Counsellor Jones' best effort—and he is an orator of the first rank, no matter what the subject. Some of the congregations addressed thus far are those of the Trinity Baptist Church, Zion Baptist, Vermont Avenue Baptist, Plymouth Congregational and the Interdenominational Bible College. Invitations have been received by Mr. Jones to deliver the address in Baltimore, Philadelphia and other points.



# Lawyers - 1915

## FORMER SLAVE IN STRONG PLEA FOR WHITE PRISONERS

*The Chicago Defender*  
United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Judges Listen With Profound Interest as Attorney Turner W. Bell Argues in Defense of Convicted Dynamiters

### NOTED FIGURE IN COURTS

Case in Question One of Many Handled by this Distinguished Lawyer—Clients Serving Six-Year Term at Leavenworth Penitentiary.

(Special to the Chicago Defender.) Helena, Ark., Jan. 29.—History repeated itself in this city last Thursday when three judges of the United States circuit court of appeals listened with profound interest to the plea of an Afro-American attorney, a former slave, who appeared before them in the federal building in the defense of three white men. Probably few people in the room realized that a gray-haired man sitting near the front of the room was a noted lawyer who was appearing before every United States judge in the central district in many famous trials until he started his argument. The attorney, Turner W. Bell, represented the men who are confined in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., serving sentences on convictions of conspiracy in the famous structural iron workers dynamiting cases two years ago.

**Has Many Big Cases.** Mr. Bell fingered his brief as he sat listening to the argument of Assistant United States District Attorney L. S. Harvey of the eastern district of Kansas, representing the government. He had spoken but few words, however, when the crowd knew that such incidents evidently were in the everyday life of the distinguished attorney. The men represented by Bell are white, and were given sentences of six years at Indianapolis in December, 1912.

**Recalls McNamara Case.** They were convicted of being implicated in more than 100 dynamiting cases—including the destruction of the Times building in Los Angeles—in

half of the states of the United States. They were at one time officers of the organization of which J. J. McNamara was a member and is now serving a life sentence in California. The men are Phillip A. Cooley, Frank C. Webb and Jack Bright, the latter also known as J. Munsey. The appellant in the case is Thomas W. Morgan, warden of the Leavenworth penitentiary.

Attorney Bell represented the men in the United States district court in Kansas last July and was defeated. He appealed to the court which heard him last week.

**Decision in Six Months.** Bell's chief contention is that the men could legally have been convicted on but one charge under the revised statutes of the United States, and that the maximum penalty should have been but two years in the penitentiary or a fine of \$10,000. They were charged with having transported dynamite throughout the country, besides the blowing up of a bridge at Indianapolis. An appeal was taken under advisement by the judges and a decision is expected within six months.

## HON. E. H. WRIGHT ELECTED PRES. OF BAR MEETING

*The Chicago Defender*  
Lawyers Aim to Wage War on Quack Methods—Co-Operation of Citizens Solicited.

At a continued meeting of the Cook County Bar Association last Friday evening, January 22, 1915, at the Young Men's Christian Association on South Wabash avenue, the following officers were elected: Edward H. Wright, president; Richard E. Westbrook, first vice-president; Albert B. George, second vice-president; Richard Hill, third vice-president; George W. Ellis, secretary; Harrison H. Farrell, treasurer; members of the executive council, William L. Martin, Augustus L. Williams, and James N. Simms.

The meeting was well attended and much interest was taken in the election of officers. The next meeting will be the first Friday, February 5, 1915, at the usual place of meeting in the Y. M. C. A. At the next meeting the new officers will be installed and the lawyers of the Illinois bar are respectfully invited to be present and assist in giving the new organization a vigorous and good start on the road to professional success. A program will

be arranged for each meeting and the different and prominent members of the Illinois bench and bar will from time to time be invited to be present and give set addresses upon subjects interesting to practicing lawyers. The program for the next meeting will be arranged but will be short on account of the installation of officers. The association will include among its policies the waging of war upon quack and fraudulent methods of members of the profession, whose bad faith and conduct bring reproach upon the dignity and nobility of the law profession. The co-operation of all good citizens is most earnestly solicited.

### WOULD BAR NEGRO LAWYER

A few days ago report was current that the lower house of the Florida legislature had passed a bill bar colored lawyers from practicing that state. The report seemed unbelievable. We refused to notice it. But it seems to have been the truth—a very sad truth—a severer pending the race has never received. appears at this time, that the will not pass the senate, it has already failed in the judiciary committee of that house.

The Tampa Tribune, a white publication, in speaking of the injustice of the measure, said:

"There is no valid reason why honest colored man should not be allowed to practice law or any other profession in Florida, and there every reason why he should be encouraged to develop his talents along professional lines."

The lower house voted in favor of the bill by a big majority. This both astonishing and alarming. goes to prove that checks are necessary for such strike breeding thing as the "Birth of a Nation" which encourages lawlessness against the Negroes. With a little imagination one can see two campaigns that were have been waged against our race from the North and from the South and it may be that those campaigns are yet on—campaigns for reducing Negro respect.

That the bill will not become a law is as it should be. The congratulatory thing is that all white men are not blinded to what is fair and reasonable. But we will bear in mind that whatever the result of such effort the race suffers. To be unjustly assailed measures the contempt of those assailing, the further hampered in pointing out a prescribed standing to accord with the contempt, thus making against the "peerhood" of citizens, a vicious violation of the genius of the country. Our situation is most satisfying when free from these kind of attacks, and not when merely free from the result of the effort. This is the spiritual phase of it. The other is that of material harm, the reducing of Negroes in their chances for livelihood. Negro lawyers are known to

serve Negro clients, Negro doctors will spend several days visiting friends in the South before returning to Chicago. Is it possible that white men would seek to change even this side show citizenship? It is possible, for that is what was attempted in the legislature of Florida. It is a conduct in kind which makes war necessary—the unreasonable demands made on men by other men. Who is the authority?

## LAWYER WATKINS PLEADS BEFORE U. S. SUPREME COURT

ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST AFRO-AMERICAN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT A MUNICIPALITY BEFORE HIGH COURT—THIRD TIME BEFORE COURT.

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As Supreme Attorney for the Knights of Pythias, Mr. Watkins Has Appeared Before This August Body Twice, Winning Favorable Decisions for Order Each Time. (Special to The Chicago Defender.)

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**Wins Important Decision.** In June, 1912, Mr. Watkins has to his credit the winning of a most important decision in the Appellate Court favorable to the City of Chicago. It was the first case in Illinois on the question interpreting the forfeiture clause in city contracts, thereby saving the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**Honor at End of Term.** The distinction of being the first attorney of color to represent a city before the United States supreme court comes to Mr. Watkins at the close of his term of office, in which he has been one of the trial attorneys during that term in the corporation counsel's office. The distinguished attorney is a Democrat and retires to private life along with the Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor. Mr. Watkins is president of the famous Appomattox Club of Chicago. Mr. Watkins

## THE PASSING OF M. WATERLOO BULLOCK.

Some years ago there came to this town one Matt Waterloo Bullock, who had, since graduating from Harvard and other places, wandered around through the west and other sections seeking climates or atmospheres where a man could make his living without work. He hung out his shingle to practice law in Oklahoma. His clients deserted him as fast as he served them. Having made it impossible in Oklahoma to have the same clients twice, he rolled into Chicago, the El Dorado of crooks and quack doctors. Being true to his methods, he soon found out that there was nothing in the practice of law in Chicago for a lawyer who had no regard for the ethics of his profession. So he rambled into Atlanta, found employment at Morehouse College and taught there for several years. Finding the atmosphere there incompatible with a man of his habits and methods, he again sought the practice of law, and the only thing that stood in his way was admission to the bar.

Like most theoretical lawyers of his kind, he dreaded the examination. Knowing his incapacity and ignorance, he stood in dreadful fright of an examination. Even the thought of a legal and honorable admission gave him nightmares. So, he heard of big hearted "Link" Johnson, the man who lives for those he can serve. He heard that "Link" had a pull, or enjoyed the confidence and respect of the Atlanta Bar. So he importuned Link to find some way of getting him admitted to the bar without examination. Link finally succeeded. He hung out his shingle on Broad street, careful to find a place free of rent. He connected himself with the church, joined the Y. M. C. A., became a great athlete and told of his triumphs at Dartmouth and Harvard. In fact, he relied upon the fact that he had attended these schools for character, industry and integrity. He imagined that the very idea that a Negro had graduated from these reputable institutions, licensed him to do as he pleased; to monkey with his clients, betray them or do otherwise.

The church people pushed him, yet he was merely eking out an existence. He could hardly make buckle and tongue meet. In fact the young perambulator was in sore distress; was actually in want for the reason that he knew no law; that it was morally and intellectually impossible for him to treat his clients squarely.



Once employed was a complete bar to law; that law was not his talent; that employment again by the same client. The Standard Life Insurance Company, seeing that he was a church man, a Y. M. C. A. worker, a great athlete, a tenor songster in the church choirs, gave him a job of \$25 per month as legal adviser. He again proved incapable, indolent and stupid. Every time he was given a case to take into the courts, he employed a white lawyer, he neither having the moral courage or sufficient knowledge of law to enter the courts himself. The Standard Life Insurance Company grinned and endured him for one year. He then approached the Odd Fellows and asked them for employment, admitting that he had not served the Standard Life efficiently for the reason that he was new at the bar and not familiar with court practice. The Odd Fellows employed him at a salary of \$420 per year more out of charity and sank to his level. He could not sideration for his ability to serve.

He held this position for quite two years. For the first twelve months he handled the business, although incompetently, honestly. The first time the Odd Fellows sent him to court they gave him a mortgage to foreclose on a real estate transaction. He employed Troutman and Troutman to represent him at a cost to the Order of \$250. Like Ephram of old, joined to his idol, or like a rock when it is dropped into the water, he soon drifted and sank to his level. He could not stay away from himself any longer. He soon fell into his old habits, giving his clients crooked deals. He got it into his head and preached it that it was a sin and a shame for a Negro to have white counsel.

With him a dollar is the standard; a dollar is the goal. It matters not by what means it takes to reach the goal, he is going to have it. He soon forgot his benefactor, big hearted Link Johnson. He soon forgot that he was admitted to the bar on the motion of Link Johnson, but indolent, lazy, treacherous and unfaithful, he decided that it was a shorter route to the dollar to take the job that Link had built up than it was to make a place for himself at the local bar. So, he announced his candidacy for Link's job and the price he offered to those with whom he was allied for support, was the secrets of his clients. Matters that had been given him in confidence business that had been handed him on the square as attorney for the Order, were peddled out to the Order's enemies. This was the price he was willing to pay for a job. Matt Bullock lay at night and dreamed of Link Johnson's \$150 per month job. He knew that he had no knowledge of

law; that law was not his talent; that work with him was unconstitutional; that short routes and schemes were second nature with him; that the game of a traitor was his favorite. Therefore, he bartered the secrets of his clients for political support in search of the job of his friend. As often as he was appointed trustee to act in legal matters for his clients, he violated the trust shamefully. Not being satisfied with the salary that he was being paid by his clients, he charged the people on the other side. He grafted going and coming. He paid himself out of funds entrusted to his care for deposit and application to business entrusted to him as attorney. Having run his course in Atlanta, having separated himself from the respect that a lawyer must enjoy, if he will succeed at the bar, he returns to the school room and accepts a position as dean of the faculty at Normal, Ala. Professor Buchanan must not know the record of this man. Undoubtedly he hired him in view of the fact that he graduated from Dartmouth and Harvard Universities, never thinking once that Harvard and Dartmouth have graduated as many scoundrels as any other schools in the country. That the schools within themselves are producers of scoundrels, but that those inclined by nature to be scoundrels, seek to clothe themselves with the prestige of having graduated from these noble institutions. A man, who has rambled over the country hunting a place to get his living without working, who has proved an absolute failure wherever he has located, is a poor example to be employed in any school as dean. What is in the life of this barterer, this betrayer of secrets of clients to inspire the young men at Normal, Ala., to nobler and higher things? Thus is the coming and the passing of M. Waterloo Bullock, sometimes lawyer in Oklahoma, Chicago, Boston and Atlanta; at other times teacher and other things in other places. But be that as it will or may, the face remains the same and the truth still holds that the wages of sin is death and the days of the double dealer in Georgia are numbered.

**M'DOUGALD'S ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Retiring Assistant District Attorney  
Opens General Law Office on  
Beekman Street.  
Cornelius W. MacDougald begs to announce that he has retired from the office of assistant district attorney of New York county and has opened offices at No. 5 Beekman street for the general practice of the law. Telephone 7653 Cortlandt.

## Re Colored Women Employing Jewish Lawyers

My dear Dr. Holder:

Your recent article, "Colored Women Employing Jewish Lawyers," New York News, interested me greatly, but the anonymous letter by a "Colored Business Woman" amazes me.

I am amazed for two reasons: First: I did not know that there is a colored woman in New York city whose legal business is of such volume that it has caused the business death of three colored lawyers, particularly the one who made her wait three or four hours for an interview of five minutes. I am sure this lady did not go to this lawyer's office at 10 a. m. instead of 9 a. m., or at 2 p. m. instead of 4 p. m., the hours a lawyer must be in court. I am also sure this "business woman" wrote this lawyer a note stating the time of her proposed visit and this lawyer deliberately stayed away. I am more than sure that her Jew lawyer is always "in" with his feet upon his desk and a cigar stuck in his mouth when she calls.

Second: I am amazed that a colored woman who has brains enough to develop a business that calls for the services of even a colored lawyer, should display such amazing ignorance of the ordinary methods of gauging people.

I assume that her citation of "some of the many things that have caused our lawyers to lose out," to her mind, is reason sufficient for all colored lawyers to starve or else — All Negroes are alike. All disorderly! All uncouth! All dirty! All odoriferous! All unprofessional! All "business women" unreasoning because three Negro lawyers are guilty? of some of these "many things!"

But a colored lawyer spent most of his time "making love" to a lady client! The story does not give us the facts as to how she happened to catch him in his office—whether it was morning, noon or night, when he was "making love," and why she did not stop him the moment he got "fresh." (The "business woman" states the client was a married woman.) This is given as a reason, however, why all colored lawyers should be discharged. I have been about "some," but I never made much time "making love" where the lady was not willing.

May I ask what will happen to the whole race of Jew lawyers should one of them start to "making love" to your correspondent, this "New York Business Woman?" It is very, very unethical to "make love" to a client—you never get your fee. Some of the bits of gossip concerning colored women clients of Jew lawyers that percolate through our ranks might

make good reading. The ridiculousness of the reasons set forth in that letter are apparent to all reasoning people.

May this "business woman" prosper in her business with her Jew lawyer until the time comes for him to gobble up her business and her property; then with tears in her eyes she will hasten to some colored lawyer to save her before she perishes financially.

Very truly yours,  
ROBERT LEWIS WARING,  
Counselor-at-Law,  
New York.

Nov. 2, 1915.

Dear Sir: The letter signed "A Colored Business Woman," in the News of the 28th inst., stating why she employed white lawyers is very sweeping in its inference, and is most unfair to a body of men who are making a splendid fight not only against race prejudice from white people, but from their own people as well. Why should all be condemned for the misdoings of a few? It is very unjust.

A C. B. W. should give more particulars as to her "waiting two or three years for results in simple cases," and "three and four hours for five-minute interviews." A half truth is a very dangerous thing and may do irreparable damage.

The incident of the lawyer who secured a judgment of several hundred dollars but made no effort to collect the judgment sounds incredible, for the reason that the lawyer himself, in the ordinary course of events, would have been entitled to some portion of the money, but according to A C. B. W. he was content to let it go rather than exert himself to collect it. A rare dodo!

Certainly any woman, if she wishes to, knows how to "effectually" put a quietus on any man who oversteps the bounds of propriety, therefore, it seems singular that the lawyer "spent MOST of his time making love" to A C. B. W.'s friend, and that she did not stop him at the very beginning—if it was distasteful to her.

For some reason of other colored people will stand more any day from whites than from their own people, in any line. If, however, A. C. B. W. and her friends can get their white lawyers to employ some of the colored boys and girls who are coming out of our schools qualified as stenographers, clerks, etc., so they will not have to depend largely upon colored professional men to give them employment (above that of porter), then the fact that they give their business to many who call them "nigger" almost as soon as their backs are turned will not seem

so nauseous.

The Jews stick together and that is why they are a power in the community. The colored people are divided, and that is why they are so hopelessly weak. Perhaps some day—some time—they may learn from the Jews.

Yours truly,  
ANOTHER COLORED BUSINESS WOMAN.

To Dr. Holder, Religious Editor the New York News.

**DYNAMITERS' PLEA IS MADE BY NEGRO.**

Turned W. Bell of Kansas Argues Here Against Alleged Excessive Penalties for Three.

A hearing to determine whether sentences to six years' imprisonment imposed on Philip (Colored) Frank C. Webb and Jack Bright, alias E. E. Munson, for alleged complicity in the McNamara dynamiting outrages three years ago, was excessive, was held in the United States Court of Appeals yesterday.

The men, structural ironworkers of Indianapolis, were sentenced December 31, 1912, and imprisoned in the Leavenworth, Kans, penitentiary.

Turner W. Bell, Negro attorney of Leavenworth, represented the prisoners. He contended the men should have been sentenced on one count only and that maximum punishment for the offense is two years and a fine of \$10,000 under the revised statutes of the United States.

The case was tried originally in the United States District Court in the eastern division of Kansas July 10, 1914, but the decision was against the Negro attorney's contention.

The appeal yesterday was before United States Appellate Judges Adams, Carland and Amidon. They took the case under advisement.

Bell has practiced in every Court of Appeals in the eight states of this district. He has practiced law 28 years and the great majority of his clients have been white men.

Born in slavery on a Tennessee plantation in 1861, he moved with his parents to Oskaloosa, Ia., after the war. He was admitted to the bar in 1886 and has accumulated a fortune. —St. Louis Republic.

**C. W. BROWN TO PRACTICE BEFORE N. C. SUPREME COURT**

*The Chicago Defender*  
Charlotte, N. C., April 23—(Special C. W. Brown, a well-known Afro-American lawyer of Elizabeth City, this state, recently passed the state supreme court examination.



SEP 8 1915

# "Colored Women Employing Jewish Lawyers"

My Dear Dr. Holder:

Your article on "Colored Women Employing Jewish Lawyers," was very interesting to read. The fact that you confined your writing to colored women only, and not to the race as a whole—I am compelled to reply. Being a colored business woman who employs white lawyers, I want to say that you are right when you say that one should spend his or her money how and where he pleases. If you had stopped your article with those words, your opinion would not have seemed one sided. I am sure if you knew what has caused many a race woman not to employ lawyers of color, you would view the matter from a different angle.

Until quite recently, I employed colored lawyers. I tried not less than three. I paid them bigger fees than I pay now, and it was always from two to three years before I could get any result from very simple cases. One lawyer in particular hadn't any regard for time, for some days I have sat in his office from three to four hours awaiting an interview of only five minutes duration.

A gentleman acquaintance of mine who is prominent in the real estate world, informed me that some years ago he secured judgment of several hundreds of dollars on notes against responsible persons, and although threatened with ruin—when a part of that money could have saved things, his lawyer made no effort to get these parties to pay.

Another colored business man told me that it was only because of a deep sense of race pride that he bothered with a colored lawyer, because on several occasions when his case was called in court, his lawyer was never present. A young married friend informed me that a friend of her family induced her to take a case from a white lawyer which she had employed and gave it to a colored lawyer, with the result that instead of looking after her legal interest, he spent most of the time "making love" to her, and questioning her about the days prior to marriage.

These, my dear doctor, are some of the many things which have caused our lawyers to lose out, and white ones get our money.

Yours respectfully,

A Colored Business Woman,  
New York City.

(The statements contained in this

letter may be true, but they are not sufficient to warrant a wholesale condemnation of the colored lawyers. White lawyers are equally as bad. I again maintain that a lawyer should not be employed because he is white or black, but because he is competent.—Religious Ed.)

## THE NEGRO LAWYERS.

The men of the profession of law are of the highest character. A client can better trust a secret with his attorney than a Christian can with his pastor, or a patient with his physician. As a rule there is less slackness and less disregard of the professional ethics among lawyers than among any one of the learned professions. It is not an uncommon thing to hear that a preacher runs his mouth too far in talking of family secrets when he is called in for spiritual advice among his flock. It is not an uncommon thing for a preacher to reveal the secrets said to him in confidence with a view of helping the down and crest fallen sinner, finding grace in the pardoning of his sins and the relief of a stricken conscience. And too often, we hear of a doctor having exposed the disease from which his patient is suffering. But it is a rare thing to hear that a lawyer gives away a secret of his client; does an unprofessional turn to his client.

But it seems that some of the Negro lawyers are getting like the Negro preacher and the Negro doctor, careless and unmindful of the ethics of his profession. We notice that in New York there are proceedings to disbar a half dozen Negro lawyers. In Baltimore a Negro lawyer was recently disbarred. In Washington a Negro lawyer has been disbarred and is now in the chain gang for larceny. In Chicago it is a common thing for a client to have to disbar his Negro attorney for dishonesty and malpractice.

And we have in mind a case not far from our door where a colored lawyer would be disbarred if his crookedness, his non-professional conduct were called to the attention of the Atlanta Bar Association. We know a case, which we will not expose just now, where a Negro lawyer handed the secrets of his client over to the enemies of his client; to the newspapers for expos-

ure; where the lawyer is guilty of down right larceny, double charging, double crossing and crookedness to the degree that unfits him for the trust and confidence of any client.

Negro lawyers are few in the South and they will be less and less as the rascals are weeded out. A lawyer, who will charge his client a fee and will make a trade with the man on the other side to rush the matter for him or slow up for him for an additional fee, is dishonest and ought to be disbarred. The Independent has no more patience with a black thief than it has with a white thief. A rascal is a rascal with us, and we know no color line when it comes to the point of discrimination. Our professional men must be more particular.

We have it to say that this stricture does not apply to all Negro preachers, lawyers and doctors. The majority of the professional men are honest and upright, but the scoundrels are sufficient in number to be routed from the profession and we are on the job.

## COOK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION HOLDS INTERESTING MEETING

The Cook County Bar Association met Friday, April 4, A. D. 1915, at the usual place of meeting at the Young Men's Christian Association, 38th and Wabash avenue. The meeting opened with President E. H. Wright in the chair. A number of the members were present. Aside from the usual business a number of important matters were taken up and disposed of concerning the administration of justice in the state of Illinois. The particular subjects of interest considered were the statutes concerning civil rights and habeas corpus. The association took up both of these matters with a view of improving the practice in this state. President Wright was empowered to send representatives to Springfield to represent the association when these subjects should be up for consideration. Representative S. B. Turner was present upon the invitation of the president and made a very instructive and interesting talk upon the making of legislation as it now is proceeding. He told of his part in defeating the Constitutional Convention, and of the assistance which was rendered in this matter by Representatives W. J. Butler, Edward C. Merritt and Lee O'Neal Brown. Mr. Turner voiced the opinion that the Constitutional Convention was defeated because its promoters were unfriendly to the interest of the citizens of color in Illinois. The society

tendered a vote of thanks to Representative Turner for his instructive remarks. Letters were ordered written to Representatives Butler, Merritt and Brown. Upon the instruction of the society President Wright appointed two very important committees, one the committee to investigate the courts and other officers; the following persons were selected: Attorney Richard E. Westbrooks, Jerry M. Brumfield, Albert B. George, W. L. Martin and Thomas G. Maxwell. Upon the committee to investigate the courts as now in operation the following persons were named: George W. Ellis, H. M. Porter, James G. Cotter, William A. MacIntyre, and George W. Blackwell. Gradually but surely the association is settling down to important work in behalf of the bar at large and the people of Illinois.

## ONE TIME SLAVE WINS 41 OUT OF 61 APPEAL CASES

Turner W. Bell, Negro Lawyer,  
Succeeds as Attorney in  
High Courts.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Three judges of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals listened with profound interest to the plea of a negro attorney, a one-time slave, who appeared before them in the federal building here.

Probably few in the court room realized until he started his argument that a gray haired negro sitting near the front was a noted lawyer who has appeared before every United States judge in the Central district in many famous trials.

The attorney, Turner W. Bell, represented three men who are confined in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas., serving sentences on convictions of conspiracy in the famous structural iron workers' dynamiting cases two years ago.

**Crowd Realize Experience.**  
Bell fingered his brief as he sat listening to the argument of Assistant United States District Attorney L. S. Harvey of

the Eastern district of Kansas, representing the government.

He had spoken but a few words, however, when the crowd knew that such incidents evidently were in the everyday of the negro lawyer.

The men represented by Bell are white and were given sentence of six years at Indianapolis in December, 1912.

They were convicted of being implicated in more than one hundred dynamiting cases, including the destruction of the Times building, in Los Angeles, in half of the states of the United States. They were at one time officers of the organization of which J. J. McNamara was a member and who is now serving a life sentence in California.

Bell represented the men in the United States District court in Kansas last July and was defeated. He appealed.

**Lawyer's Chief Contention.**  
Bell's chief contention is that the men could legally have been convicted on but one charge under the revised statutes of the United States and that the maximum penalty should have been but two years in the penitentiary or a fine of \$10,000. They were charged with having transported dynamite throughout the country and with the blowing up of a bridge at Indianapolis.

Bell has been a practicing attorney in Leavenworth twenty-eight years. His hobby, he said, is appeal cases.

In 1914 he filed sixty-one appeals in the United States courts, and was successful in forty-one of them. In but two cases were his clients negroes.

Bell was born a slave in Tennessee. He was taken with his parents to Oskaloosa, Ia., when young, and earned enough money to carry him through a course in law.

The day he was admitted to the bar at Leavenworth United States Judge Hook was in the courtroom, and Bell considers Judge Hook one of his best friends.

Among famous appeals in which Bell has been successful was the case of Charles A. Stevens, a wealthy negro boy of Kansas City, who stole a mail sack containing \$55,800. Stevens' sentence was reduced from ten to five years. As his fee Bell received \$13,000.

## CROPSEY TO PROSECUTE R. L. PERRY, NEGRO LAWYER.

Accusation Is in Connection With Drawing Deed—Addison S. Sanborn Is Disbarred.

District Attorney Cropsey in Brooklyn was designated yesterday by the Appellate Division in that borough to prosecute before Patrick E. Callahan as referee charges made against Rufus L. Perry, a negro lawyer, by the Grievance Committee of the Brooklyn Bar Association.

The charges are that Perry drew a



deed after the death of his father, which purported to be executed by his father, transferring property to his mother, and that the lawyer twice testified falsely before William D. Dickey, an official referee of the Supreme Court, that the deed was genuine.

Addison S. Sanborn, a lawyer of No. 189 Montague Street, Brooklyn, under indictment for alleged misappropriation of money belonging to a client, was disbarred yesterday by the Appellate Division in Brooklyn.

It was charged that Sanborn received \$738 from Mrs. Clara E. Reynolds of No. 1434 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, with which to pay bills, and retained \$328, claiming it was due him in the settlement of her father's estate.

#### COLORED LAWYERS.

In speaking of the Colored attorneys there are two men better known to the people than Attorneys Jones and King.

Thomas L. Jones, Esq., is no doubt one of the best-known criminal lawyers at the bar. There is no man better qualified to defend a criminal case than he is. Out of 35 or more murder cases he has never had a defendant to hang. His defense is always perfect and the manner in which he conducts his cases have often been commended by the court. Aside from his great criminal practice, he has a very large equity practice, and from present indications he is among the most busy men at the bar. Mr. Jones has a most interesting family. His wife and children are very accomplished. He has accumulated a great deal of property from the practice of his profession.

L. M. King, Esq., is a quiet and active practitioner. He is one among the best equity lawyers at the local bar. His papers are generally prepared carefully and when he with his papers.

every United States Judge in the Central District in many famous trials.

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#### THE COLORED LAWYERS.

The Bee has made every effort to present the Colored members of the bar in his proper light. The Colored members of the bar have the respect of the court when they deserve it. The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia plays no favorites and they appreciate the man, white or black, who plays the monkey.

Many people have an idea, that is certain Colored people, that Colored lawyers have no influence with the court, that the Colored lawyer is not respected by the court and the like. No charge is any more ridiculous than this. No lawyer, white or black, makes any impression on the court if the law, the facts and evidence are against him. The Colored lawyer is as much respected and carries as much

weight as a white lawyer; if any thing, in many instances, the Colored lawyer is given greater consideration. The newly appointed judges, McCoy, Covington and Siddons, although Democrats, trust the Colored attorneys just the same as those distinguished Republican judges, Gould, Stafford and Anderson. The Colored lawyer will take more interest in his Colored clients than the white law-

yer. There has never been a case where the Supreme Court has criticised a lawyer on account of his color. This week The Bee will briefly call the attention of its readers to

Attorney Thomas Walker, Who is one of the most progressive members of the local bar. Mr. Walker is a man of considerable property which he accumulated from the practice of his profession. He is respected by the people for his honesty and integrity. He deals principally in civil practice and real estate. He is a thorough race man; highly educated and greatly interested in the progress of the education of the Colored youth and the public schools.

There is no man in this city any more interested in the success of the schools than Attorney Walker. He has the largest real estate business of any Colored member of the bar.

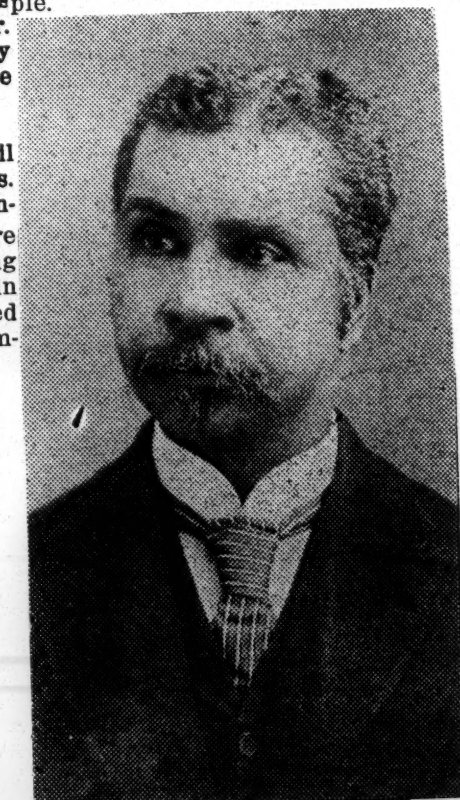
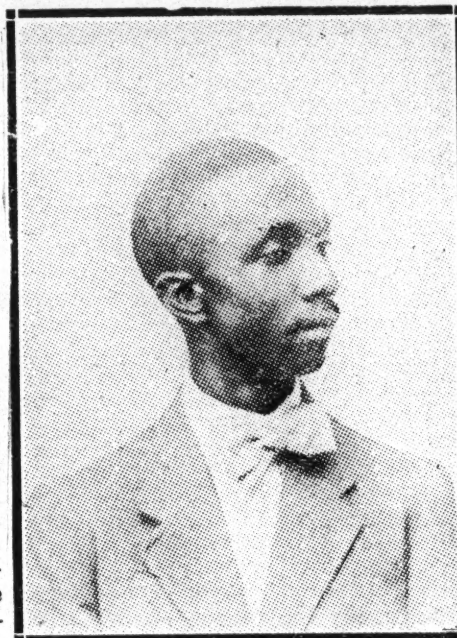
Mrs. Walker, his wife, is a literary woman and a woman of property. She is highly cultured.

W. C. MARTIN, ESQ. Is no doubt one of the best civil lawyers at the bar, no exceptions.

He is a hard student, logical concise, and pointed. His papers are always well prepared. He is a strong Odd-Fellow, and thoroughly versed in the law of the order. He is regarded as one of the Chesterfieldian members of the bar.



JAS. A. LIGHTFOOT, ESQ. Lawyer and editor of the Atlantic City, N. J., Advocate, who has a cir-



FRED THRELKELD BY DAMAGE SUIT

Fayette County Colored A

torney Claims His Client Unjustly Held Here

## IN YOST LAW CASE

### Lawyer Is Ejected From Prohibition Department of State House

James Ellis, a colored attorney of Fayette county, and a former member of the state legislature, threatens to enter suit against Fred O. Blue, state prohibition commissioner, for damages, claiming that his client was falsely held here by the prohibition department of the state.

In addition to this, there was a little scene enacted in Mr. Blue's office on Monday when Mr. Blue, according to the story of Ellis, ordered that he be forcibly ejected from the office if he did not leave. Mr. Ellis says that while he was actually not thrown out, it came so close to it that it jarred his legal feelings.

The whole affair started over the arrest of James Nero, of Minden, Fayette county, who was dragged from a train by Prohibition Officer Barnes. He was refused a hearing by orders of the prohibition department. The charges against him were "bootlegging," a quantity of liquor being in his possession when he was arrested. His hearing date was set for September 8 and this delay was what brought Ellis to the scene.

Ellis went to Squire Dering's office and inquired why the hearing was not held. Dering referred Ellis to the Prohibition department. When Ellis told Mr. Blue his business he inquired:

"Have these deputies a bond to answer for their personal conduct?"

Ellis was told they had not, when, according to report, he shook his finger at Blue and said:

"Then I will sue them under your bond."

This caused the ejection of Ellis from the office.

Ellis threatens to sue Mr. Blue, but it was learned later that Mr. Blue is not under bond for his conduct, so such a suit would have no legs on which to stand.

Nero was given a hearing, however, before Squire Dering, was fined \$1 for swearing and was held for the grand jury on the charges filed against him by the prohibition department.

It is said that he had eight quarts

of liquor and testified it was for his own use.

## ONE-TIME SLAVE SUCCEEDS AT BAR

Turner W. Bell, Now Representing Dynamiters, Has Won Many Cases in Courts of West.

St. Louis, Mo., Saturday.—Three judges of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals listened with profound interest to the plea of a negro attorney, a one-time slave, who appeared before them in the Federal Building here.

Probably few in the court room realized until he started his argument that a gray haired negro sitting near the front was a noted lawyer who has appeared before